



Docket No.: R2184.0137/P137
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Hideaki Hirai, et al.

Application No.: 10/086,442

Group Art Unit: N/A

Filed: March 4, 2002

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: OPTICAL ELEMENT, OPTICAL
PICKUP UNIT, AND OPTICAL DISK
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned.

A concise explanation of relevance of the items listed on form PTO/SB/08 is:

[X] not given

[] given for each listed item

[] given for only non-English language listed items

[] in the form of an English language copy of a Search Report from a foreign patent office, issued in a counterpart application, which refers to the relevant portions of the references

While the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Examiner is directed to also consider U.S. Application Serial No. 09/344,120, filed on June 24, 1999 (unpublished) and U.S. Application Serial No. 09/384,377, filed on August 27, 1999 (unpublished).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper

hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1073, under Order No. R2184.0137/P137.

Dated: January 13, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	10/086,442
Sheet	1	of	1	Filing Date	March 4, 2002
				First Named Inventor	Hideaki Hirai
				Art Unit	N/A
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
				Attorney Docket Number	R2184.0137/P137

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U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
AD		US2002/0018433	02-14-2002	Ohuchida	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
					T ⁶

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			

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Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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